

5-4

L U X U R Y,

P R I D E and V A N I T Y,

The B A N E of the

B R I T I S H N A T I O N.

Wherein is shewn

The *Prodigality* and *Profuseness* of all *Ranks*, and *Conditions*.

The *Transposition* of the *City* to the *Court*, with the *Tradesmen's* expensive manner of *Living*.

The *Encrease* of the *Wine-Trade*, the *Decay* of the *Wealth*, and *Industry* of the *People*.

Town and *Country* over-run with *false Splendor*.

Most of our *modern Equipage* compar'd to the *Life of Man*.

Physicians, and even *Apothecaries* under an absolute *Necessity* of keeping *Equipages* in support of their *Characters* and *Families*.

An Account of a *Lady*, who unhappily lost her *Life* through the *Avarice* of her *Man-Midwife's* attending in a *Hackney-Coach*, instead of his own *Chariot*.

A new piece of *Frugality* among Men of *Quality*, in *keeping* their *Mistresses* in their own *Dwelling-Houses*.

More *Wines* and *Vians* expended in the *City of London* and *County of Middlesex*, than in the sixteen *United Provinces of Holland*.

The *Beggars* of the several *Parishes* within the *City* and *Suburbs of London*, proved to eat more *white Bread* than the whole *Kingdom of Scotland*.

The proud, insolent and extravagant *Humours of Parish-Officers*, *Petty-Clerks* in the *Offices*, *Gentlemen's Gentlemen*, *Petty-Foggers*, *Led Captains* and *Runners*, in Men of *Qualities Chambers* and *Kitchens*, *Dancing-Masters*, *Gamesters*, &c. exposed.

The late horrible *Instances* of wilful and corrupt *Perjury* animadverted on; with some Account of Mr. *Wreatbuck's Calves-Leather-Club*: Together with a true *Copy* of the *Highbwayman's* famous *Bill* formerly filed in the *Court of Exchequer*, by the said *Wreatbuck* on the Part of *John Everet* against *Joseph Williams*, two notorious *Robbers*, about settling the *Property* of their *Plunder*, both afterwards executed, and *Wreatbuck* committed to the *Prison of the Fleet*.

With diverse other entertaining Subjects, *Serious* and *Comical*.

T H E S E C O N D E D I T I O N .

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PRIDE and LUXURY the Bane of
BRITAIN, &c.

THE prodigious Spirit of *Pride*, *Luxury*, *Profuseness*, *Vanity* and *Corruption*, that hath shewn it self in this Kingdom for some Years past, (and which if not speedily remedied, will inevitably put an end to the *Name*, *Trade*, and *Constitution* of the *British* Nation) begins now to be felt by every honest and thinking Subject: Nothing but Extravagance, Voluptuousness and Idleness, with all their direful Consequences, being seen in every Corner of the Kingdom.

I am afraid it is but too just an Observation, that scarce *one* Family in *ten*, keeps strictly within the Compass of its Income; for besides the present expensive manner of *Living*, the generality of Mankind have contracted such an unusual Indolence, that People eagerly pursuing the *Pleasures* and *Novelties* of the Times, leave their *Estates* and *Business* of all kinds, at Sixes and Sevens, or at best to the Management of a few heedless mercenary Servants, that mostly either through Avarice or Negligence, betray or deceive them.

The *Contagion*, as I have said, hath spread it self over the whole Kingdom; the grand Controversy among all Ranks and Degrees, being only who shall *Out-Dress*, *Drink* or *Eat* his Neighbour.

bour. It is a most deplorable Truth, that the *Country* is in such a wretched Condition and so empty already, that a true *Englishman* cannot look into it without a just pity and concern. Is it not an ungrateful Spectacle to see so many noble and ancient Families Houses mouldring into Ruin, and dropping down for want of Inhabitants; and then to behold the prodigious Growth and Encrease of this unwieldy *City*, and to observe what a strange multitude of People there is jumbled together in it? Who can reflect upon this, but must necessarily believe that the Head, in a very little time longer, will grow so much too big for the Body, that it must consequently tumble down at last and ruin the whole. This is a misfortune which I am confident would well become the Wisdom of this Nation (now so happily in its legislative Capacity assembled) to prevent.

Notwithstanding the vast Sums of Money annually rais'd for supporting the Poor, two Persons cannot converse together in the Streets, but they are instantly encircled with a crew of Beggars; and a Man that hath occasion to pass in haste, had need to hire a lusty Fellow to go before him with a Truncheon to clear the way of those vast Bodies of them that obstruct the Passengers with their *Brooms*, *Brushes* and *Crutches*, all invoking you in the Name of Heaven and Earth to relieve their real or pretended Necessities.

Nor never was the *City*, *Suburbs*, and *adjacent Villages*, crouded with so many miserable Objects; some are *Starving* in *Equipage* and *Embroidery*, and others in *Rags* and *Ribbands*; all Ranks and Conditions forgoing the Rules of Prudence and Frugality, have brought themselves under the most scandalous and visible Extremities.

Our

Our *Churches* and *Theatres* indeed never appear'd in more Splendor and Magnificence ; but when we reflect on that costly *Apparel* and *Hands* of *rich Rings* displayed there, and consider the wretched aking Hearts, and what *wringing* of *Hands* there is often in private, to think how to get Money to pay for them, no prudent Person would envy them the Glory of that false Lustre.

In short, considering the present Posture of Men and Things, the Age degenerates hourly, Honesty and Virtue are almost dwindled to nothing : Roguery, Folly and Vice are constantly encreasing and growing more publick and insolent.

You'll see some pretending Piety to promote their own Ambition and Interest ; others extolling Charity and Union purely to advance Division and Revenge, and the generality crying out and exclaiming for the good of the Publick, that under that Veil they may conceal their treacherous and base Ends, and have a larger Opportunity to propagate their own Advantage and Designs: And these, together with innumerable Multitudes of *Rogues*, *Whores*, *Pimps*, *Bawds*, *Projectors*, *Governours*, *Directors* and *polemick Writers*, make up the grand part of the Conversation of *these blessed Times*.

The *Proceedings* on the Commissions of Oyer *Terminer* in Town and Country, exhibit to us such shocking Scenes of Villany, as was never known or read of in all the Histories of *Britain* ; the *Murders*, *Parricides*, *wilful Burnings*, *Sacrileges*, *Tb-fs*, *Plunderings*, *Perjuries*, *Forgeries*, *Incests*, *Whoredoms*, *Cheats*, and *Impostures* of various kinds, with Crimes altogether new, wanting Names, such as never before enter'd into the Heart of Man to commit, or the Laws of God to

punish, that begging his *infernal Highness's* Pardon, for lugging him in with the *Laureat*, it may with great Truth and Propriety be said in these Days, *the Devil hath out-done his usual Out-doings.*

It may be thought a little ungenerous to reflect on our Ancestors of *Hempden Memory*; nevertheless, I cannot help thinking them a parcel of dull *Rogues*, for transmitting their *empty Skulls*, to adorn only the Shops of *Surgeons* and *Apothecaries*; whereas had they manag'd with the dexterity and address of their *Successors*, they might have rais'd *Palaces, Monuments, and Hospitals.*

This is an Age of Gallantry and Gaiety, and never was the City transpos'd to the Court as it is now; the *Mall, Play-houses* and *Masquerades*, are fill'd with Citizens and young Tradesmen, instead of Gentlemen and Families of Distinction. Citizens whose Ancestors would have fainted at the sight of a *Drawing-Room*, now grace the *Circle*; nor will the City suffer Cuckoldom with the Tameness as formerly, but make reprisals at *St. James's*, and *St. George's Hanover-Square*, &c. with a vengeance: The Shopkeepers wear a different Garb now, and are seen with their long Wiggs and Swords, Velvet Breeches and Hunting Caps, rather than with their own Hair, Bands and Aprons, as was formerly the Figure they made.

When one pass'd through the principal Streets of the City, the Custom was to see Carts and Porters lading and unlading Goods and Merchandizes at the Citizens Doors; but now you see Chaises and Phaetons, *French Horns* and Saddle-Horses, with such a Trade of Booting and Spurring as was never before known in *London.*

Nothing

Nothing of the present Pride and Vanity or but very little of it was seen in former Times, the Baits which are every where laid for the Corruption of Youth, and for the ruin of their Fortunes, were never so many and mischievous as they now are.

The Oeconomy and Industry of the mechanick Part of Mankind, hath of late Years been greatly impair'd through the vast Encrease of *Vintners, Coopers, Wine-Merchants, Distillers* and *Tobacconists, &c.* These being the immediate Ministers to a Million of Vices and bad Habits. You are told of a *Hare* to be eat at one Place, and a *Haunch* at another; a *Lodge* of *Masons* to be held, or a *Wager* to be spent at this *Tavern*; while some Tom Fool's *in the Chair*, at the t'other: on the one side of the way, a set of *bearty Cocks* are engag'd to meet, chat, laugh and be merry; and on the other, a *few Neighbours* are for killing half a dozen Hours with a *serious Game* at *Whisk*. Next, a new *Punch Coffee-House* is open'd, the Master as honest a Mortal as ever squeez'd a Lemon, and it will be a good-natur'd thing to raise a *Posse* and fix an Hour to pass an Evening with him; Circular Letters are running about, when this *Vintner* pays his *Merchant*, and that *Viſtualler* his *Brewer*, requiring the personal Attendance of such of their Customers as love a *bearty Soke*, to suck the Dealers out of as large a share of their Profits as possible. One Tradesman is pulling another by the Sleeve from his Business, to assist him in the receiving a Bill at a publick House, by swelling up a Reckoning to oblige my Landlord; a Publican is making terrible Complaints of the badness of his *Beer* and *Brandy*, as the most wretched Liquors that ever were impos'd on an honest Man, who endeavours to pay every one his own, and keep the Wolf from
the

the Door ; only to put his Brewer and Brandy-Man upon the Necessity of forming a Party of their Friends, to come and help off with them ; then they are as good a Commodity as ever were put into a poor Man's Cellar. But the most dangerous Enemy to an industrious Neighbourhood, is a sorry idle Mechanick, who sings what they call a *good Song*, and is at the beck of ev'ry Blockhead to make a Benefit to a drinking Brothel: This is a meer Loadstone to *Lavishness* and *Drunkenness* ; and when the poor Devil has ran in Debt all round the Parish, and drank and pipe'd himself to Death, his Admirers put down their Half-Crowns a-piece to put him into a Coffin, as a reward of his Lyrick Labours. In short, there are in this Town so many Avocations from Business to Gluttony and Laziness, as if the chief concern of Life among middling or ordinary People, was only to meet, eat, drink, and smoak Tobacco.

Nor can a Person put his Head into a Tavern, to enquire for an Acquaintance, but the People of the House, tho' they know the Party to be dead, or gone to *Jamaica*, will tell you they expect him every Moment, and wonder that you did not meet him going out at the Door.

A Man who can afford only to *keep the Commandments*, must not pretend to stand in competition with him who *keeps his Coach and Concubine* ; we see with what eagerness the *Cushion* is handed out on the *Bench* to the latter, and what venerable *Salutes* are paid him from the *Pulpit* ; the *Laity* as well as all Orders and Degrees of the *Clergy* reverence and adore the *golden Calf* ; though I could never learn that our *Saviour* ever once appear'd with any other Equipage than an *Ass*, or that any of his Apostles were Masters of a *Diamond Ring* ; no, not even

a *Snuff-Box*, or a single piece of Lace or Embroidery.

Our *Physicians* and *Surgeons* have indeed, of late Years, found an *Equipage* to be the most essential part of their Practice; for the one may as well pretend to visit a Patient without his Skill as his *Coach*; and the other's *Instruments* and *Plaisters* would be esteemed of as little signification, unless accompanied with his *Equipage*. How many Citizens Wives enjoy as high Health as his Majesty's two Troops of Grenadier-Guards, (God be praised for it) that upon the blowing of every *easterly* Wind, cannot forbear calling in the Aid of the *Faculty* at a very great Expence to their Families, meerly to gratify the Vanity of having a *Chariot* wait two or three times a Week at their *Doors*? But this is one of the modish Methods of *doing Credit to a Husband*.

What an Out-cry had we last Summer at *Hampstead*, of a Lady who lost her Life in Child-Bed; all the Women calling it the most barbarous and inhuman Murder that ever was committed; because the *Man-midwife* who had the care of her, unhappily attended, it seems, once or twice in a *Hackney-Coach* instead of his *own Chariot*!

Nor is there a Wife of the meanest Tradesman within the Bills of Mortality, whose Husband pays Scot and Lot, but what would be complain'd of as the most *cruel Monster* living, and thought *worse than an Infidel*, should the honest Man propose to her a Physician, who practis'd upon his *Pedestals*.

Even an *Apothecary* that pretends to stand upon his *own Bottoms*, in this Age of *Equipage*, stands but upon a ticklish kind of Foundation, and makes but a very slender Figure in his Business. 'Tis for this reason I presume that these

Gentlemen

Gentlemen have of late taken so much to the *Wheel*; some of whom have wheel'd themselves into plentiful Fortunes, and so may be said to have *wheel'd about to the Right*. As half a score of them have the Reputation of *bonest Fellows*, according to the present *Standard* of that *Commodity*; I hope none will envy their Success, but those of their own Profession.

When we see a Person not publickly known (which happens to be the Misfortune of a great many *Gentlemen* of the *Lancet* and *Vial*) clamber into a Chariot, hasping the Door after himself like a Miser, when he enters his Closet, the voice of the Populace is presently apt to pronounce him a *Surgeon*, or an *Apothecary*. *Who can help natural Habits?*

Mr. B-ff-t informs us of a *Voiture* he once compiled for a Gentleman of the Faculty, who was near a Twelve-month in *breaking* himself for the use of it; all the Arguments of his Relations and Friends, not being able to prevail on him to give himself Induction into his own *Lay-Benefice*. *A notable Instance of an Invincible Modesty* in a Physician!

Many of our *modern Equipages* may well enough be compar'd to the *Life of Man*, for they have *but a short time to live*; *they come up and are cut down like a flower, flee as it were a shadow, and never continue in one stay*.

A Person conversant with Characters and the Streets of *London*, may at any Hour in the Day, cast his Eye upon some one Face or other, which, had the just and well known Laws of this Kingdom taken their due and natural Course, instead of flying about the Town in a *gilt Chariot* attended by a cluster of *Footmen*, might have rode very gently out of it in another kind of *Vehicle*, under an Escort of a *few Horsemen*.

In short, good Husbandry and Frugality are quite out of Fashion, and he that goes about to set up for the Practice of it, must mortify every thing about him that has the least tincture of Frugality; 'tis the mode to live high, to spend more than we get, to neglect Trade, contemn Care and Concern, and go on without Forecast or without Consideration; and in consequence 'tis the mode to go on to Extremity, to break, become Bankrupts and Beggars.

Indeed there is one piece of Frugality which our Men of Quality seem very fond of, and are running into apace, and that is keeping their *Mistresses* at their own dwelling Houses, instead of expensive Lodgings, as was formerly the Custom in *England*; for now when a Man of Figure and Fortune can procure himself an *unpolluted Pullet*, the Damsel is instantly put on the footing of a Domestick at *Bed and Board, Wages and Warning*, and is lookt upon as a useful and necessary piece of *Furniture*, and prevents numberless Inconveniencies; for a *Madam* may be brought under the Eye and Management of a *Mother*, or *Sister*; nay, even of a *Wife*, and perhaps prove no disagreeable *Companion*, when the Thing is considered as an Expedient for *retrenching* the Expences of a Family.

That all Things are dearer than formerly to a *House-Keeper*, needs little Demonstration; the Taxes necessarily infer it from the Weight of them, and the Number of the Things charged. We find all Articles of foreign Importation are increas'd in value to the Consumer by the high Duties laid on them: And yet that which is most observable is, that such is the expensive Humour of the Times, that not a Family, no hardly of the meanest Tradesmen, but treat their Friends with *Wine* and *Punch* and other *Exotick* Liquors.

Their *Tables* are also advanc'd in their Proportion of Expence to other Things; they are now the Emblems, not of Plenty, but Luxury, not of good House-keeping, but Profusion, and that of the highest kind of Extravagancies; insomuch, that it is the Opinion of the ingenious Mr. *Piper*, who is well known to have been not a Traveller only, but a nice Observer of such Things abroad, that there is at this time more waste of Wines, spirituous Liquors, and Provisions of all Kinds, within the City of *London*, and County of *Mid-dlesex*, than in the whole seventeen United Provinces of *Holland*; and that *England* consumes for their whole Subsistence, more Flesh than half *Europe* besides; and that the Beggars within the Walls of the City of *London*, eat more white Bread than the whole Kingdom of *Scotland*.

I am credibly inform'd, that it has been lately found by Computation of the Number of Servants kept by all sorts of People, Tradesmen as well as others, that there are in *London* and *Westminster*, and the Towns within ten Miles round, take every way, above an *hundred Thousand* more *Maid-Servants* and *Footmen* at this time, in place, than used to be in the same compass of Ground about *thirty Years* ago; and that their Wages amounted to above 40 s. a head *per Annum*. more than the Wages of the like Number of Servants did amount to at the same Length of time past; the Advance to the whole Body, amounting to no less than *two hundred thousand Pounds* a Year.

Some will have it, that this expensive Way of Living began among the Tradesmen first, and that their eager resolved Pursuit of that empty and meanest kind of Pride call'd *Imitation*, viz. to look like the *Gentry*, and appear above themselves, drew them into it.

It has indeed been a fatal Custom, but it has been too long a *City Vanity* ; if Men of Quality liv'd like themselves, Men of no Quality would strive to live not like themselves : If those had Plenty, these would have Profusion ; if those had enough, these would have Excess ; if those had what was good, these would have what was rare and exotick ; I mean as to Season, and consequently dear. And this is one of the Ways, that has *worn out* so many middling Families before their *Time*.

The Tradesmen endeavour to vie with their Superiours in many other respects ; you have your *Anna Maria's*, *Charlotte's* and *Harriot's*, in the Family of almost every *Farrier* and *Shoemaker* ; Names given heretofore only to the Daughters of the Nobility and Quality : And in the dirty *Lanes*, *Courts* and *Alleys* of the Town, the *Heirs Apparent* to *Herb-Stalls* and *Dairy-Cellars*, are calling out on their *Pappa's* and *Mamma's* ; Terms only used in Families of Fashion, and indeed devised by none but *French Fools* and *Italian Fiddlers*, to gratify the devilish Pride of Women. I was the other day in a Tavern, where a *young Lady* in a *Silk-Coat* and *Holland-Frock*, came to enquire at the Bar, whether her *Pa*, Mr. *Burthen* the *Porter* was not there in Company of Mr. *Pace* the *Penny-Postman*, and other *Gentlemen*. People make themselves ridiculous when they appear in *Masque*, and act a Part to make Sport ; when they strive to seem what they really are not, and to think themselves best dress'd when they are least known : But 'tis a plain visible Scene of honest Life, shewn best in its native Appearance without Disguise ; supported by Prudence and Frugality ; and like strong stiff clay Land, grows

fruitful only by good Husbandry, Culture and Manuring.

But what Reflections may be made on this Head, the World has long since decided the Matter; handsome Apparel is a main Point, fine Feathers make fine Birds, and People where they are not known, are generally honour'd according to their Clothes, and other Accoutrements they have about them; from the *Richness* of them we judge of their *Wealth*, and by their ordering them we guess at their Understanding. It is this which encourages every body, who is conscious of his little Merit, if he is any ways able to wear Clothes above his Rank; especially, in large and populous Cities, where obscure Men may hourly meet with fifty Strangers to one Acquaintance, and consequently have the Pleasure of being esteem'd by a vast Majority, not as what they are, but what they appear to be; which is a greater Temptation, than most People want, to be vain. The Almighty, they say, has endow'd us with the Dominion over all Things, which the Earth or Sea produce or contain; there is nothing to be found in either, but what was made for the use of Man; and his Skill and Industry above other Animals were given him, that he might render both them and every thing else within the reach of his Senses, more serviceable to him. Upon this consideration, they think it impious to imagine that Humility, Temperance and other Virtues, should debar People from the Enjoyment of those Comforts of Life, which are not denied to the most *Heathenish* Nations; and so conclude that without Pride or Luxury, the same Things might be eat, wore and consum'd.

As to wearing Apparel in particular, some will indeed tell you, that Pride which sticks
much

much nearer to us than our Clothes, is only lodg'd in the Heart, and that *Rags* and the plain Garb of *Quakerism*, often conceal a greater Portion of it, than the most pompous Attire; hence it is very probable, that silver and gold Brocades, Jewels, and the richest Embroideries, may, without a thought of Pride, be wore by many, whose Quality and Fortune are suitable to them.

It is not at all uncommon in this Town, to see Families make a most flaming Appearance in *Publick*, throwing their haughty Looks upon all, whom they think inferiour to them, that were one to see them truly *within Doors*, should find oftentimes resolv'd into Committees of the whole House, on Ways and Means to discharge a *Butcher* or *Poulterer's* Bill, or raise a Supply to furnish a new Suit, or an Opera Ticket.

I have been credibly inform'd, that in one of the *great Companies*, a certain young Gentleman holds a *Clerkship*, who having for many Years given *chace* to *Fortune*, at length luckily happened to be *in at the Death* of a near Relation, by whose bequest he became posselt of a very rich *Diamond-Ring*. To qualify himself for the full and perfect Enjoyment of so great a *Blessing*, the first Thing he did, was to renounce all manner of Acquaintance and Knowledge of the lesser *Clerks* in the Office; nay, his *Glove* and *He* were no longer *Hand and Glove* with one another, for he had now taken leave of *Kid* and *Lamb's* Leather; and tho' an unusual Familiarity was observ'd between his *Fingers* and his *Forehead*, his Conversation lay chiefly with People of the *Brilliant*: He bore a mortal Aversion to the *Dutch*, for the Habit of *pocketting* up their *Hands*, in a Land of so much Liberty. He was indeed a great frequenter of Places of *religious Worship*,
but

but then he would no more turn his Eyes to a Prayer-Book, than a young Wench of Quality on her Wedding Night would do to a Page of *Taylor's holy Living and Dying*. At length it pleas'd God to punish this young Man's Pride and Vanity, by inflicting such an *Itching* on his *Nose* and *Forehead*, that I defy Mr. *Ward*, with all the Power of his Pill and Drop, to divert the *Humour*.

The Stupidity of our City *Serjeants* at *Mace*, their *Yeomen*, and common *Sheriffs Officers*, is very remarkable: A People who, above the rest of Mankind, should most carefully avoid all manner of Distinctions in Dress. The large gold lac'd *Hat*; the *Coat cape'd with Velvet*, the *Silver clasp'd Buttons*, and *Tyburn Natural-Wig* worn in honour to *Wild's* Memory, renders their Profession as visible as a *Scotch Poet's*, by his meagre Aspect, a *Jew* by his black goggle Eyes, or a *Linnen-Draper* by his stiff Joints and long Turn-over. Though Heaven in its peculiar Regard to Mankind, hath set so particular a Mark on the Physiognomy of this Part of the Creation, that a *Defendant* may readily perceive a *Writ* on an *Officer's Countenance*, and if an *Insolvent* falls into his Clutches, it is his own fault, by sinning against the Light with his Eyes open, and slighting the kind Warnings given by Providence.

Some of our *Retailers* of the Law, judging themselves Men of such vast *Eminence* in the Profession, because their Chambers are on the Level with the *Rookery* in the *Temple*, cannot appear before a Court without a Pair of Velvet Breeches, a silver-hilted Sword, big enough for a Clerk in the *Long-Room*, with a *Gold* or *Silver* Trimming on their Clothes, &c. So when they have pickt up some poor credulous Tradesmen, to equip them after this manner, they generally run about from one *Tavern* and *Coffee-*

Coffee-House to another, to exhibit themselves to view, that they expend more Money than would pay the Trades-People for their Work and Materials: This I take to be the chief Reason, that even in the height of a Term, we see so many of these poor Devils *out at Elbows*.

'Tis pleasant enough, when the Citizens Wives are waddling through the principal Streets on their Afternoons Visits, to catch them now and then fumbling about their Petticoats, to bring forth their fine Watches to the view of the Publick; 'tis by this, that many a *dextrous Fellow* often gets a Month's comfortable Subsistence for himself, and Whore; and then forsooth a News-Paper must proclaim the *Name and Habitation* of a Shopkeeper, who was Fool enough to spare twenty or thirty Pieces out of Trade, for a needless Bauble, to indulge the Vanity of a Woman, who had not Sense enough to keep it out of the Hands of a *Robber*.

You cannot mention the Hour of the Day in a Coffee-Room, but a Coxcomb, who perhaps has made himself Master of a second-hand Gold-Watch, out of a Pawn-broker's Shop, for about half a score Pieces, fixes his right Hand to his Fob, as readily as a Grenadier doth to his Fire-lock at the Word of Command, to *oblige you*. You have abundance of these civil obliging sort of *Gentlemen*, in almost every Coffee-House of the Town; nor can you tickle the Soul of a Gentleman's *Coachman* or *Footman*, more than by shewing any concern about the *Time's passing*, because the Fellow instantly lugs out upon you a large *silver Watch*, containing a greater quantity of *Plate* than his Ancestors, perhaps, for seven Generations were ever in the possession of at one Time,

All our petty *Clerks* in Offices, Noblemen's *Butlers*, *Valets* and *Grooms of Chambers*, are become such *fine Gentlemen*, that there is not one in eight without his *Gold-Watch* and *Velvet-Breeches*, &c. To support which intolerable Pride and Extravagance, there's hardly a publick Office but what hath been robb'd, and the great Families vastly injured by them.

Can there be a more provoking Sight in the Streets of a rich trading City, than for a little Quill-pushing Fellow, with a Salary of fifty Pounds a Year, a laced Hat, a yard of Steel at his A--e, and perhaps a Cl--p into the bargain, to take the Wall of an eminent Merchant? Or for a Dancing-Master with about 3s. 6d. in his Pocket, to run foul of a Master of a Ship of 4 or 500 Ton Burthen, and perhaps drive him next to the Channel?

But the pleafantest Sight is, when two insignificant Beaus are contending for Precedency in one of the principal Streets of *London*, an honest Porter shall drive both their Heads together with his heavy Burthen, and put an end to the Dispute.

There is such a charming Sound in the Words, *Mr. Alderman*, *Mr. Deputy*, *Your Worship*, *Mr. Chairman*, or any others which give *Sway* and *Superiority*, that it affords an infinite Pleasure to rule over any Thing, because of the satisfaction in Ordering and Directing. How happy must that Man be, who leads and hath the legislative Power of a whole Ward vested in his own Hands? It must be delightful to govern a Company of miserable Wretches, mew'd up in a Parish Workhouse, but much more ravishing to govern the Governour of it himself. To sit at the upper End of a Tavern-Table with a longer Pipe than the rest of the Company; is not an uncomfortable Thing,
for

for there is a Charm even in a *Chair*, and a sensible Pleasure to *preside*, tho' it be only over a Club of *Porters* and *Perriwig-Makers*. How many Masters of Companies, Wardens and Members of Courts of Assistants, have chose to lose their Lives, rather than lose the Pleasure of hobbling at the *Head* of their Brethren, through the cold hazy Streets of *London* on a *Lord Mayor's-Day*, when their Ages and Infirmities visibly requir'd their Attendance in other Places?

It is astonishing, that in a great trading City, where Labour, Industry and Frugality, should be the only prevailing Motives or Considerations, such an insatiable Thirst after Power and Dominion should so generally appear, that even a Contest about half a dozen Common-Council Men, hath e'er now been carried up to such a Pitch of Animosity and Enmity, that the City hath even turn'd its Eyes towards her Train'd Bands. It is but a few Years since the Election of a *Church-Warden* for the Town of *Greenwich* had like to have embroil'd the Kingdom in a civil War; but that a timely Stop was put to the growing Mischief, by the Wisdom of the Government.

The great Festival of *Easter*, is the usual time for selecting from the Publick, Persons eligible to discharge parochial Duties. 'Tis observable that as these are generally a Class, something inferior to the middling Rank of Mankind, so nothing is more common among them, than Heart-Burnings, Railings, and Uneasiness. As some are saddled with undue and troublesome Offices, and others not duly promoted according to their Merit or Seniority. Then are the most ridiculous *Processions* made between the *Churches* and *Taverns*; every *Parish* is in an uproar with the *Par-*

on at the Head of it, and the very *Children* are set together by the ears, breaking one another's Heads, for the Sport and Diversion of the more sagacious *Heads of the Parish*. The *Barons* and *Sirloins* that are now laid waste and desolate, the *Poulterers Shops* that are depopulated, together with the vast Quantities of *Port Wines* (that had their *Births* and *Education* in the Cellars of *London* and *Westminster*,) that pass the *Thorax* at these Solemnities, are incredible. Then you'll perceive a total abstaining from Business for a Month together, as if the Trade and Tranquility of the Kingdom depended entirely on the choice of a few Church-Wardens.

Nor is this Temper less prevalent in the Liberty of *Westminster*; here the *Burgefs* sighs, because the *Justice of Peace* hath a larger share of *Authority* than himself; and the Justice bewails his fate, in not having a *Fortune* equal to the *Burgefs*. A *Church-Warden* shews a great concern for a Company in the *Train'd Bands*; while the *Overseer* comforts himself with the Hopes of being one Day *Church-Warden*; one is ready to break his Heart, because his Neighbour collects the *Land-Tax*, and another complains of the Villany of the *Vestry*, because he is not a Member of it.

It has been remark'd, that in *England* the *Poor's Rate* is generally gather'd with as much Pride and Loftiness, as the Treasure of *Spain* is from the Mines of *Mexico*; it being no uncommon Thing to see a couple of Fellows, who have left their *Linnen* or *Leathern* Aprons behind them, strutting about from Street to Street, bearing the *Parish-Books* with as much Stare and Solemnity, as tho' they had got the *Regalia* between 'em. Nor will Mr. *Overseer* vouchsafe to move his Hat, or bestow any other than a surly denying Countenance

Countenance on an industrious Inhabitant, whose Circumstances have not rendred him liable to this *elevated Station*.

Every *Judge* hath his *Sociate*, to advise with on certain occasions, so hath Mr. *Church-Warden* his *Sidesman*, to consult and deliberate together on the important Affairs of the Parish. Though, to speak the Truth of Parish *Wisdom*, it never appears more conspicuous, and shines with greater Lustre than when some obscure insolent Upstart, who was taken from off a *Lay-Stall*, is with one Voice call'd to the Office of *Scavenger*; because it is a sort of Sentence on him, *to return to the place from whence he came*; besides, it is doing a piece of common Justice, in giving the *Dunghill* its due.

A *Constable's Staff* yieldeth vast Delight and Satisfaction; so desirous is every honest Man of some small Share in the executive Part of the Laws of his dear Country. It is a peculiar Happiness to the Publick, as well as to themselves, that these Officers are seldom acquainted with the real Extent of that Power, the Law hath put into their Hands; for it is not every Man who can draw a *Mug of three Threads*, or beat an *Oven*, that is endued with a Capacity sufficient to read a *Warrant*, any more than the *J---ce* is that granted it.

An ingenious *Printer* in the City, having lately pass'd this Office, 'tis to be hoped, the Publick will soon be oblig'd with some *Treatise on the Laws and Manners of his Majesty's loving Subjects at Midnight, together with a Collection of Cases adjudg'd by the Constables of the Night, in the several Watch-Houses and Round-Houses of this Metropolis*.

PRIDE is that natural Faculty, by which every Mortal that has any Understanding, overvalues,

and imagines better Things of himself, than any impartial Judge, thoroughly acquainted with all his Qualities and Circumstances, could allow him. What is very peculiar to this Faculty of ours, is, that those who are the fullest of it, are the least willing to connive at it in others, and none are so much offended at their Neighbour's Pride, as the proudest of all; and, if any one can pardon it, it is the most Humble. From which it may be justly inferr'd, that its being odious to all the World, is a certain Sign that all the World is troubl'd with it. This, all Men of Sense are ready to confess, and no body denies, but he has Pride in general. But if you come to particulars, you will meet with few, that will own any Action you can name of theirs, to have proceeded from that *Principle*.

'Tis an easy thing to triumph over the Understanding of a few weak People, tho' very cruel for an insignificant Creature, furnish'd only with a large train of Tongue-Artillery, to discharge it on his Company, and shine away over his Bottle with a Verbosity, as astonishing as irksome to all, who have the Misfortune to be within Ear-shot of him.

Nor is it Christian-like in a Country, famed for Charity and Generosity as this is, to see a poor Man wallow in his own Wit, and no body offer to help him out of it; but this is in some measure made up to the *Sufferer*, by the secret Satisfaction he feels, in being bless'd with so large a share of *good Sense*, and *uncommon Understanding*, that his Audience growing greedy of his fine Elocution, purloin the very *Wisdom*, as it distils from his *Mouth*.

The happy Man, who, endued with this Talent, hath attained the Art of *pleasing in Conversation*, and talks in a manner, which denotes
that

that he chooses rather to be admired than understood, must endeavour to make himself a perfect Master of the *Mythology of the Moderns*; he is to possess himself of a superficial Notion of every thing; always taking care to play upon the *Surface* of an *Argument*, and prudently avoid being drawn into *Depth* and *Particulars*; a smattering of *Poetry*, with a Stock of *Latin* sufficient for a *Country Curate*, together with a good round of *Obscenity* and *Ribaldry*, will not be amiss: He need not indeed trouble himself much about *Divinity* or *Religion*, there being at present no great Call in *Conversation* for either, But if he can touch upon the *Balance of Power*; *Bank-Contract*, and the *Business* of the *Old-Baily*, and so harangue his Hearers from the *Craftsman* down to the *Hangman*, he's a Brilliant; his Company instantly cry, *Sir your Health*, and he in return, *Gentlemen all your Healths*: for this, by the *Courtesy* of a *Coffee-House*, is call'd *universal Knowledge*.

He has now nothing to do, but to run from *Club* to *Club*, and from one *piece of Mutton* to another; the chief *Business* of his *Life* being, the Moment he comes into *Company*, to set his *Tongue* to a *Topick*, and talk away; and having given his *Jaws* a hard *Journey* of two or three *Hours*, to be rewarded with the *Reputation* of a *deep Man*, a *clever Fellow*.

This Class of *deep Men* and *clever Fellows*, aye, and *very clever Fellows* too, is generally compos'd of some promising *Genius's* who have just finish'd their *Travels behind the Counter*, and others newly launch'd into the *Publick*, from the more polite *Professions* of *Surgery*, *Painting*, *Physick* and the *Law*; together with *ruin'd Rakes* and *broken Traders*, and divers other illuminated *Minds*, to whom *Nature* hath been so exceedingly lavish
of

of her *Gifts* and *Favours*: Likewise, *Under-Clerks* in the publick Offices, whose *Knowledge* and *Humanity* have been of so high and extensive a nature, that they, good young Men, often mourn in secret the *Weakness* of their *Superiors*, and the more wretched Condition of their *Country*, in that themselves have no higher *Hands* in the Administration of the Affairs of it.

A Set of Execrations on the Army System, is a sufficient Fund for Conversation, towards *White-ball* and *Covent-Garden*; an Officer with a P-x upon him, redder than his *Coat*, having been found no *unsound* Reasoner; therefore, why should a *Philosopher* expect to find Mercy from the Hands of a *Quarter-Master*, when a very great *Critick* has been cut down by a *Cornet*; and a *Poet* hard *push'd* in an Argument with a *Person*, who hath had the *Command* of a *Troop* or *Company*, tho' a very slender Authority over *Words* and *Letters*?

I come now to treat of a most dangerous and mischievous Creature called a *Led-Captain*, a *Spunger*, or *Hanger-on*, with which most of the great Families are pester'd: they have little to recommend them, unless it be a few *Drunken-Jests*, or *Scraps of Poetry*, or perhaps some broken Characters of Men and Things, with a little of the *Intrigues* and *Humours* of the Times; and by virtue of these Qualifications, they fancy themselves Companions fit for the greatest Nobleman in the Kingdom, and will be sure upon the smallest Invitation to croud themselves upon him, if they meet with any Encouragement; and 'tis ten to one but by degrees grow familiar, and after that impudent, and at last intolerable.

In one Point, indeed, they're perfect *Philosophers*, as carrying all they have along with them, and truly that's little enough too; their Furniture

ture in general is so wretched and scandalous, that you may soon learn them by their Garb, viz. a *Cockade*, an old *Open-laced Hat*, a *Toupee*, and a *Monmouth-Street taudry Waist-coat*. A *bawdy Song* or two, a few *drunken Healtbs*, and about a dozen or two of *Puns* and *Quibbles* set 'em up; and with these, they'll be perpetually grating and dinning your Ears, till they have worn them as Thred-bare as their Coats; and after all, must be forc'd to be laugh'd or kick'd out of 'em, before they will quit them too.

As for Money, they never have any, nor never pretend to any, unless it be now and then *Half a Crown*, borrow'd of the *Valet* or *Footman*, or the Fragments of a Tavern Reckoning, which they pinch from the Drawer, to heel-piece a Pair of Shoes, or recruit the Snuff-Box.

In short, these are *Drones* in the strictest Sense and Definition, and if you once suffer 'em to crawl into your Hive (to keep up to the Nature of the Insect) they'll be sure to besmear, and disturb your Cell, devour your Honey, and in all respects as burthensome and pernicious to Servants, and Trades-People, as well as to the Families they can fasten themselves upon, as Drones and Wasps are to Bees.

This Town swarms with this sort of *Gentry*; and a Man of *Quality* or *Fortune* cannot set his foot into it, from his Country Seat or his Travels, but there are several of them come instantly humming and buzzing about him. I have already given my Notions of Idleness, and I tell you again in the Words of a Great Man, *that 'tis so scandalous and reproachful, that neither Heaven, Earth, or Hell it self will own, or patronize it.*

How

How unreasonable then is it, I think I may say, *how infamous and unaccountable*, for Men of the greatest Quality to pick up such loose and profitless Creatures, and take 'em into their Bosoms, tofs them about in their Coaches into all Conversations, and make 'em their inseparable Companions, and give them absolute Power to rule and sway their Families? I am astonished when I see the *Lobby and Court of Requests* half fill'd with these Leaches, who thrust themselves into all Company and Business along with their Patrons, sucking and spunging upon them, and *in the literal Sense* eating them up alive.

I would not be here misunderstood, I am not dissuading the Fortunate and Great against relieving and supporting distress'd Gentlemen in their Necessities; no, I would not have them defy the Example of that Liberality, by whose Effects themselves live. But then, I would not have them abuse the divine Precedent, by fostering a sort of vicious sluggish Creatures, that have brought about their own Wretchedness by *Whoring and Gaming*.

This leads me to make some short and general Reflections upon Gaming. That the original Design of *Play or Gaming* was Diversion and Recreation, I suppose we may take for granted; but since it has lost its Native Property, and basely degenerated into a *mechanical Trade* and Occupation, I am afraid, as Cases stand, we have two other Titles that will suit it much better, *viz.* Covetousness and Cheating; for what imaginable Cause can there be assign'd, but the flat desire of winning, that should induce Men to venture what they have for what they have not; nay, that which they are afraid and unwilling to lose, for that which they're uncertain to gain?

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This can be nothing but Covetousness; for if Covetousness was not the grand Mover, there could not be the least Grounds or Pretence for *great and deep Play*; a Man may divert himself, as well for a *Shilling* as for a *Pound*, and for a *Pound* as for a *Thousand*; and if that were all, provided it were not used immoderately, there would be no harm in Gaming at all. A certain great *Dutchess* once ask'd a Gentleman of *Ireland*, *that as he had so immense an Estate, why he did not play?* *Madam*, said he, *that is the only Reason I do not.* No, 'tis Covetousness, which tho' some of the more thinking sort of Gamesters are ashamed to own, take off the Disguise, and you see the ugly Hag drest up in all her dismal Pomp of Wretchedness and Misery. And then for Cheating; why, it is the *inseparable Qualification of a Gamester*. A Man has not only *blind Chance* to deal with (tho' that be but a very leaky crazy Vessel, for him to put to Sea in, upon such a dangerous Expedition) but such a Combination of Deceit, and such a Chain of Tricks and Sights link'd together, that even good Fortune it self is not sufficient to guard and secure him against them: So that a Gamester lies under a kind of Necessity, to make himself *Master of the useful Art of Cheating*, that he may be upon the Level with the rest of his Fraternity.

If, after all, a Man could arrive to the *biggest Perfection* in this *Science, Gaming and Cheating* have commonly a reflex'd Efficacy, and deceive none more than those that use 'em. Besides all this, what should it be, I wonder, that should incline a Gentleman of an Estate, to take up such a scoundrel Occupation, and much more for Persons descended from *noble and ancient Families*, to keep and maintain publick Gaming-Tables in their Houses; nay more, publicly ad-

vertise them in the common New-Papers, to call Company together, is a Mystery, I profess, beyond my unravelling.

A *Carding* Woman is a fashionable Monster; too *Common* to be carried about for a *Shew*, and too *Ugly*, to bear *looking at*: Else, there is not, among all the *misshapen, grim, Animals*, which are *proclaim'd* Unnatural, by Sound of a Trumpet, any thing, so detestably the *Reverse* of what she was intended for, as this *rational Grimalkin!* this, voracious, dry, Harpy in Masquerade! this *half-human*, Tyger, in Petticoats!

Let no body tell me of the *Respect* that is due to *the Ladies*;—These are *no Ladies*: They have renounc'd, and abandon'd, whatever is *tender*, whatever is *amiable*, in Woman: and the *Rights of the Sex* are Advantages, which *They* are too *Mannish* to support any Claim to.

I have struggled so long to *suppress my Resentment*, against these *Antidotes to Desire*, that it has given me *Heart-Burn*.——In short, I can contain my self no longer: but am for *Executing* all such incorrigible Offenders, for *High Treason*, against *Love*, and the Sex's *Hereditary Right of Dominion*.

The *Goths* and *Vandals*, of old, were less barbarous *Destroyers*, than these *Domestic Subverters of Government*.——They have fill'd all our Families with *Avarice*, and *Ignorance*; made *Politeness*, and *Gallantry*, unnecessary *Qualifications*; banish'd *Wit*, and *Conversation*, out of *good Company*; and with an infamous *Delight in Contradiction*, and *Absurdity*, split our *publick Assemblies* into *Divison* and *Parties*.

All that *Sweetness*, and *Innocence*, all that *Gentleness*, and winning *Attraction*, of *Look*, *Voice*, and *Sentiment*, all that *Modesty of Address*,

dress, and listening Softness of Good-breeding, which, when I was my self a young Fellow, seiz'd Men's Hearts, like a *Contagion*, and made *Women*, at once, *delightful*, and *dangerous*!—All these are, at present, become *imaginary Ideas*!—Our *Women* have their Time so importantly engross'd, by the *Cards*, that they are not at *Leisure*, to charm—They are not to be *resisted*, when they set themselves upon *winning your Money*: But, as for your *Heart*, they enter into no Plots that concern it; they neither *give Pleasure*, nor *receive* it, in the Way which their *Mothers* were born for: They are *chaste*, yet *not virtuous*: For, while they *feel* no Desire, they can never be said to *resist* it.—Like Girls in the *Green-Sickness*, who prefer *Sea-Coal*, and *Old-Wall*, to the Best, and most Savoury Dishes, they have *carded* into their Constitutions a Kind of *unwishing Depravity*, which, they are silly enough to suppose, may be mistaken for *Continence*.

I profess not to consider their almost universal Propensity to *Gaming*, as productive of any further *Dishonour*, than such as is inseparable from so low a *Waste* of their *Time*: For, as to the often-urg'd *Temptations* under which it has been represented as capable of bringing their *Virtue*, I think, their *Persons* may generally be *pleaded*, in *Balance*—The Sourness, and Insensibility of Softness, which they gradually contract, in *Play*, from a too earnest and virulent Indulgence of their Spleen, and Ill-nature, giving a *saving*, and *forbidding*, Cast to their *Features*, which can never want *due Influence*, let Opportunity be as favourable as it pleases.

In the mean time, I pity the *Husbands*, the *Sons*, and the *Daughters*, great Part of whose Happiness, or Misery, in Life, is to depend on the Conduct of these good *Christians*; who, in

the literal Sense of the *Scripture-Phrase*, may be said to *eat, and drink, and rise up to play*.—As Wives, they have Families to govern; and Husbands, to converse with, and to please: As Mothers, they have Children to educate, and to qualify, by Example, and Precept: As Women, they have Characters to preserve, and adorn;—Minds, to furnish, and strengthen:—Memories to store, and enliven;—and Virtues, to watch over, and exercise;—for the Honour and Ornament of their Race, and the Comfort, and Duties, of Society in general.

But, all these, *without Quadrille*, are the wearisome *Encumbrances* of Life! *Quadrille* is the Joy, that gives it *Spirit*, and *Brightness*!—For this, they hurry over their *Meals*, and abridge their most agreeable *Refreshments*: For this alone, they *visit*, and *are visited*: By this alone they *measure* their Enjoyments, and Felicity: letting their *Minds* lie *waste*, and *barren*, that their *Hands* may be *fill'd with Idleness*.

The Growth of so vicious a *Habit*, as our Women's Attachment to *Cards*, at the same time that it shews us the prevalent Power of *Custom*, serves, perhaps, to account for that Degeneracy, and Corruption, among Men, which some have remark'd, to the disadvantage of our national Reputation.—Our Youth is in the Hands of *these Mothers*: And the *Spartan* Example gave a Proof, beyond question, that *Nature stands bent, the Way*, that *Infancy is pointed*.

In *this*, the Care, and the Wisdom, of Governments is best discern'd, and most interested.—A great, and provident Administration, *foreseeing* all necessary ill Effects *prevents* them, by removing their *Causes*: Whereas the Weakness of a temporary Expediency can but *palliate*, and *cover* Corruption, with a Cloud of *unpolitical Remedy*.

medy.—I shou'd not scruple to charge upon the Defect of a *Ministry's* Vigilance, that radical Neglect of *Correction, in due Season*, whereby Customs, pernicious, and of general bad Tendency, are allow'd to get ground in a Nation.

It were a foolish Excuse to say, with Regard to the *Vice* we are complaining of, that there are Laws in *Force* against it. I *deny it* as a manifest *Falsity*: From the *Court* to the *Cottage*, I see *Cards* in every Corner.—If I step into a *Coffee-House*, the *Card-Tables* have usurp'd the Place of *Converse* and *Business*: If I make one, at an *Assembly*, I see the Company divided into *Parties*, at *Cards*, and the very *End* of their coming *together*, made ridiculous, and usefess by their want of Taste and good *Sense*, to support *Conversation*.—If I look for the *Ladies* in their Boxes, at our Theatres, I find none of them so unfashionably employ'd; they are all Face to Face, at *Quadrille*.—What a Madness then, to pretend we have *Laws in full Force*, against a *Vice* in full *Practice*!

It is ridiculous to talk of *Laws*, for Prohibition of any Thing, that is not visibly, and universally *discontinued* by the Law-Makers.—When the People see *Gaming for Money*, a Diversion in the highest Repute, at the Houses of their *Parliament Men*, it will be in vain to put 'em in mind, that it is declar'd illegal, by *Act of Parliament*.

That there *ought to be* some *serious Law*, not only *made*, but rigorously *executed*, for Restraint of so exorbitant a *Deviation*, from what *Woman* was either *meant*, or *form'd* for, will, I think, be readily confess'd, by every Lover of the Sex.—Their Spirits are too volatile for *Rest*: Take from 'em therefore, all impertinent Attractions,
and

and they will rather chuse to be *well-employ'd*, than live *Idle*.

Were want of Sense as *infamous* as loss of Innocence, we should probably *adore* those Women, who *now teach us to despise* them.—The Husband, who finds Home *bateful*, because his Wife is either *sullenly dumb*, or *talkatively insipid*, wou'd, when Business forc'd him out, return for ever, with a *Lover's* Eagerness, to *Beauty*, strengthen'd by *fine Taste*, endear'd by *Softness* and *Sincerity*, enrich'd with *Apprehension*, and *Ideas*, and made *sparkling* by an eloquent *Vivacity*.

Remove but the *Cards*, beyond the *Reach* of a young Lady's Wishes, and after she has yawn'd, and stretch'd, and sigh'd away a Month or two, she will begin to ask herself, *what other Care* deserves to fill that *Time*, that hangs so *emptily* about her ; like a *loosen'd Sail*, in want of *Wind* enough to swell it into *Motion*.—She will find, in Answer of this Question, that there are a thousand Things to *know*, a thousand Paths to *tread*, in every one whereof she may pursue, and overtake, *Adornment*, *Influence* and *Empire*.

What is still *more happy*, she will not know it, for *herself* alone.—She will transmit it to her *Children*, and her *Childrens Children* : For, 'tis to *Custom*, *Habit*, *Education*, and *Example*, that we owe, whatever we *are*, whatever we *think*, whatever we *do*, and whatever we *communicate*,

There is nothing less *just* than the Complaint which is made by the Ladies against *Man's Inconstancy* : They *deceive* us in *Converse*, as *Prospects* do in *Travelling*.—While we are viewing the Country at *Distance*, we see nothing but the *Gay*, and the *Tempting* :—All the *Dirt*, and the

the *Difficulty*, is reserv'd, 'till we are in the *midst* of it.—

To return to, and conclude with my Subject, it seems *possible*, and very *easy*, to make a *Law for Restraint of Gaming* effectual.—It might be done with no more *Difficulty*, than by absolutely forbidding, under the most *formidable Penalties*, not Carding in it self, but for any *Adventure* of Profit, or Loss: Any *Money* or *Stake*, even to the Value of a single *Fartbing*.

This removing the Cause, *Avarice*, the Effect *Carding*, will in Consequence *cease*, as to Generals; and yet the *innocent* Use of it, remain in the Choice of all People: So that the Clamour of prohibiting the Liberty of *electing our Diversions* will be groundless and obviated.

There's much to be said, to prove this *Town* to be a Forge of *Vanity*, a Nursery of *Vice*, a Snare to the *Young*, a Curse to the *Old*, and a perpetual Spring of new *Temptations*. Some find a mighty Satisfaction from the *Play-House*, as thinking it the best way of passing an idle Hour or two; there you'll be encountred with such a variety of ridiculous *Pantomime Scenes* and *Actions*, that in the main it's hardly worth any Consideration: Some are *clapping* and *stamping*, others *bisping* and *scoffing*, and perhaps both without Reason: There you'll see some a Cock-horse on the Seats, dancing and confounding the *Play* and *Players*, tho' they know not why, or for what; others throwing about their Wigs, and almost blinding you with their fulsom *Powder*, or tormenting you with the nauseous Scents of their *Perfumes*; others prating with *Orange-Wenchs*, or bantering the *Whores*; and what's more probable, the *Whores* bantering them. In short, there's such a strange Confu-

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sion and Jargon among them, and such a huddle of Men and Things jumbled together, that unless you can abstract the Good from the Bad, and withal drain Observations and Diversions from 'em both; I cannot tell what kind of Pleasure or Satisfaction you can propose from thence. 'Tis the very same in all the rest of our pretended Diversions, viz. *Horse-races, Cockpits, Tennis-Courts, Balls, Assemblies and Musick Entertainments*, &c. tho' the Recreations in themselves may most of them be innocent and harmless enough; yet they are generally so vitiated and corrupted, and the Pleasure that they pretend to, is so interwoven with Danger as well as Vexation of Spirit, that I defy the greatest Master of the *Town*, even Beau *N--sb* or *H--dd--g--r*, to make it appear, that there is not more Pain and Disappointment, than there is real Pleasure or Satisfaction attending upon the best of 'em. They are all but wretched Counterfeits and Impostures, and will hardly endure the Test of a Fruition. Indeed they may be something grateful to us at first; but after we have repeated them once or twice, they grow flat and dull, and at last loathsome. We are like so many *Bees* in a Garden, humming and roving about from one Flower to another, foolishly endeavouring to keep up our Course of Pleasure, by a continued Succession, and Circle of Varieties.

The Diversions in the *Country*, as *Hawking, Hunting, Fishing, Fowling*, and the like, are Noble, Manly, and Generous, and do not cloy or satiate their Possessors; but are still improving upon 'em, and are every day growing more grateful and delightful; they are not spent as those of the *Town* are, but still the more they're enjoy'd, the more they please, and gratify the Enjoyers. Moreover, to consider the
 Expence

Expence of the *Pleasures* of *London*, and those of the *Country*, the latter are all free and open, and deriv'd as it were from the general Grant of *Nature*; the former are mercenary, and not to be come at without a certain unavoidable Charge and Danger: besides, all the *Pleasures* of this Town may be run through in the narrow Compass of two or three short Days; and when that's done, you do but run the same foolish Round, tread the same Stage over and over again; and what can be more ungrateful to an Ingenious Man than to have his Senses perpetually grated and impos'd upon, by the dull repetition of the same Thing?

A *Gentleman* here is in the main a Creature that's compos'd of nothing but *Pleasure* and *Idleness*, that like the *Leviathan in the Deep*, thinks he hath little else to do in the Town, but to take his Pastime in it: And we have too many *Tradesmen*, who make it their Practice to lie a-bed till Eleven o'clock every day, then just come into the Shop, and twirl their Ruffles about, and next to the *Tavern* or *Coffee-House* for a *Whet*, or Tiff of *Rice-Tea*. If they come home to Dinner, which is ten to one they do, they take a long Sleep in a Chair after it, and about four a Clock in the Afternoon, or thereabouts, to a *Coffee-House* to read the News, and after that to the *Tavern* again; where they continue till about two or three in the Morning, get drunk, and are led home by the Watch, and so lie till Eleven again; and thus they walk round like the Hand of a Dial.

The whole Life of Man is but one entire Amusement. Virtue only deserves the Name of Business, and none but they that practise it, can be truly said to be employ'd; for all the World beside are idle. One amuses himself by Ambition, another by Interest, and another by that

foolish Passion, Love. Little Folks amuse themselves in Pleasures, great Men in the Acquisition of Glory; and I am amus'd to think that all this is nothing but Amusement,

Once more, the whole Transactions of our Lives are but meer Amusements, and Life itself is but an Amusement, in a continued Expectation of Death.

Altho' nothing is durable in this transitory World, yet 'tis observ'd that this Saying proves false in *Westminster-Hall*, where there are Things of eternal Continuance, as Thousands have found by woful Experience; I mean *Chancery Suits*. Certain Sons of Parchment, call'd *Solicitors* and *Barristers*, make it their whole Business to keep the *Shuttle-Cock* in Motion; and when one Hand is weary of it, they play it to another. 'Tis the chiefest Part of their Religion to keep up, and animate the Differences among their Clients, as it was with the vestal Virgins in the Days of yore, *to maintain the sacred Fire*.

I have, with great Satisfaction, read some time ago, the Presentment of the *London Grand-Jury*, complaining in very just and warm Terms, of the monstrous Increase of Gin-shops, and other Retailers of distilled spirituous Liquors. The handsome Reception it met with from the Bench, and the Promise made by the then worthy Lord Mayor and Aldermen, and Justices of the Peace, that they would rigorously execute the Laws now in being, and use their Endeavours to move the Legislature to make more effectual ones, gives all worthy and disinterested Persons the highest Pleasure, who have long lamented the dreadful Evil, which, if not soon restrain'd, will involve the present and all future Generations, in Misery, Weakness, Poverty, and Ruin.—The Insolence of the unlicensed Retailers of Gin, calls

calls aloud for Punishment, having got beyond the ordinary Power of the civil Magistrate. Few care to give Informations; and when the Justice of Peace, inspired with a true publick Spirit, meets with inferior Officers of Courage and Integrity, and sets about a Reformation of these disorderly Houses, he finds himself surrounded with Numbers of scoundrel Solicitors and Attorneys, who watch his Steps; and 'tis more than probable, that he is entangled in some Niceties of the Law, and so by a *Certiorari* he is brought into the King's-Bench, and failing in some minute Circumstances of the Process, the whole Proceedings are quashed, and the Magistrate, at a great Expence, has the mortification to see the impudent Fellow triumph over him, and increase his iniquitous Trade.—When Things are come to this pass; when the Magistrate finds the Laws now in being very defective, and of little or no Use, 'tis humbly hoped, when all ordinary ones fail, the Legislature will prescribe a remedy for a Distemper now grown Epidemical.—In the Plague, 'tis lawful to do a great many Things, which at another time would be harsh, cruel and unjust.—In a Fire, you may blow up your Neighbour's House, to put a stop to the Rage of the Flames.—And lighten a Ship of a valuable Lading, when nothing else will preserve her from foundering.—And this for the best Reason in the World, *viz.* That the Properties, and even the Lives of a few, must be sacrificed to the Health, Utility, Safety and Welfare of the whole Community.—None will deny, that Thousands are every Year kill'd by excessive Drinking of distill'd spirituous Liquors.—That the Children of the laborious Part of Mankind, by whom the World is kept up, are born weak and sickly.—That

Soldiers, Sailors, and daily Labourers, are sensibly more feeble and unable to do the Duty of their Callings, and yet expect as great or greater Wages.—That Robberies, Murders and Debaucheries of all kinds, are concerted, and often committed in Gin-shops, and Night-cellars, where there are private Rooms for them, while they are tolerably sober ; and when they get drunk, they are thrown, of all Sexes and Ages together, into one Cellar or Out-house, where are committed Vices shocking and abhorrent to human Nature. In short, these are the Sinks and Receptacles of the vilest of both Sexes, who come raging out of them, as if possess'd with an evil Spirit, ready prepar'd for any desperate Mischief.—All confess, see, and lament this.—The Officers of the Army, of the Fleet, and the civil Magistrate, all cry out against it. All these, and every Person of the least Humanity and Bowels of Pity, will join Heart and Hand, in stopping the bold Inroachments of this terrible Destroyer ; for of all the Miseries and Plagues that unhappy Man has been incident to, none was ever fraught with such direful Consequences to the Publick. War, Plague and Pestilence, rage for a while, and then they cease ; but this merciless Destroyer, threatens Misery, Want and Sickness, to all the Generations that are yet to come.—These Hydras lift up their envenom'd Heads in every Street or Alley ; Chandlers-Shops, and Ale-houses, sell Gin or Spirits, of some kind or other ; the Infection spreads from the Garret to the Cellar, and makes its impudent Approaches to the Gates of our King's Palaces.—Now then is the Time, and there are many brave and disinterested Spirits, who despise all petty Advantages, when set in competition with the Lives, Welfare, present

sent and eternal Happiness of their Fellow-Creatures.——True Lovers of their Country are warm'd with a generous Disdain, and are resolv'd to join heartily in putting down these Nurseries of all kinds of Wickedness and Debauchery.——They talk so loud, that it must come to the Ears of the tender Father of his People, whose paternal Care is reach'd out to the meanest of his Subjects.——And then our Happiness will be compleat, when we are at Peace with ourselves, as well as all around us.——Then instead of Rage and Madness, the common People will be brought to Sobriety and good Manners.——Then will Servants become more dutiful to their Masters, Soldiers and Sailors to their Commanders.——Then will Murders and Robberies decrease, and all manner of Prophaneness and Immoralities lessen.——For there is no Probability, that the best Advice, or Punishment, will be effectual to restrain Brutes, who have drunk themselves into the Condition to be their own Tempters; Shame, Fear, Prudence, Reason, being all asleep.

We find the Night *Watchmen*, either sleeping at their Stands, or catching hold of the Posts in the Street, to support their tottering Carcasses at all Hours in the Night; very pretty People to demand a *Robber to stand*, when it is not in their power to do it *themselves*: some of them have been so far intoxicated with this pernicious Liquor, that you shall hear one bawl the Hour of *Eleven, and a Cloudy Night*, on one side of the Street; and another, on the other at the same instant cry, *Past Twelve, and a Moon-light Morning*.

The late horrible Instances of wilful and corrupt Perjury demonstrate the Depravity of the Age, and the Propensity of idle and extravagant
People

Soldiers, Sailors, and daily Labourers, are sensibly more feeble and unable to do the Duty of their Callings, and yet expect as great or greater Wages.—That Robberies, Murders and Debaucheries of all kinds, are concerted, and often committed in Gin-shops, and Night-cellars, where there are private Rooms for them, while they are tolerably sober ; and when they get drunk, they are thrown, of all Sexes and Ages together, into one Cellar or Out-house, where are committed Vices shocking and abhorrent to human Nature. In short, these are the Sinks and Receptacles of the vilest of both Sexes, who come raging out of them, as if possess'd with an evil Spirit, ready prepar'd for any desperate Mischief.—All confess, see, and lament this.—The Officers of the Army, of the Fleet, and the civil Magistrate, all cry out against it. All these, and every Person of the least Humanity and Bowels of Pity, will join Heart and Hand, in stopping the bold Inroachments of this terrible Destroyer ; for of all the Miseries and Plagues that unhappy Man has been incident to, none was ever fraught with such direful Consequences to the Publick. War, Plague and Pestilence, rage for a while, and then they cease ; but this merciless Destroyer, threatens Misery, Want and Sickness, to all the Generations that are yet to come.—These Hydras lift up their envenom'd Heads in every Street or Alley ; Chandlers-Shops, and Ale-houses, sell Gin or Spirits, of some kind or other ; the Infection spreads from the Garret to the Cellar, and makes its impudent Approaches to the Gates of our King's Palaces.—Now then is the Time, and there are many brave and disinterested Spirits, who despise all petty Advantages, when set in competition with the Lives, Welfare, pre-
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We find the Night *Watchmen*, either sleeping at their Stands, or catching hold of the Posts in the Street, to support their tottering Carcasses at all Hours in the Night; very pretty People to demand a *Robber to stand*, when it is not in their power to do it *themselves*: some of them have been so far intoxicated with this pernicious Liquor, that you shall hear one bawl the Hour of *Eleven*, and a *Cloudy Night*, on one side of the Street; and another, on the other at the same instant cry, *Past Twelve*, and a *Moon-light Morning*.

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People

People to Villany; we have seen Tradesmen, who might have supported themselves in an honest industrious Way, leave their Business and Callings, and for the sake of Half a Guinea or so, deliberately perjure themselves in the Courts of Justice: Even *harmless Butchers* have been call'd from their Shambles, to bear Testimony of Things they never saw; their great Director, the Ingenious Mr. *Wreatbuck*, always assuring his Pupils, that *Faith was the Evidence of Things not seen*: which he impiously laid down as Doctrine worthy of their Practice, and that all common Conversations over Liquors, where Men *swore much*, was as *much upon Oath* as any in the Courts. By which Means this *learned Gentleman* had discover'd a more compendious Way of carrying Causes than any of his Predecessors, and had set himself up as Governor and Director of all the *Poor Knights of Westminster*.

We have a great many other soliciting petty-fogging Fellows, who would think it a great hardship, that a good Client should lose a Cause for want of a *few Lips being laid to Calves-Leather*, as the Phrase is in *Westminster-Hall*.

To shew the monstrous Impudence and Villany of these Petty-foggers, I shall present the Publick with an exact Copy of the *Highwaymens famous Bill*, formerly exhibited in his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, by *William Wreatbuck* late of *Hatton-Garden*, Gent. between *John Everet* and *Joseph Williams*, two notorious Robbers, the former of whom was afterwards executed at *Tyburn*, and the latter at *Maidstone in Kent*; and for which Insult and Affront upon the Court, *Wreatbuck* was committed Prisoner to the *Fleet*, where he remain'd about six Months before he procur'd his Enlargement.

To the Right Honourable, the Chancellor and Under-Treasurer, the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Baron, and the rest of the Honourable, the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer.

“ **H** Umbley complaining, sheweth unto your
 “ Honours, your Orator *John Everet*, of
 “ the Parish of *St. James's Clerkenwell*, in the
 “ County of *Middlesex*, Gent. Debtor and Ac-
 “ countant to his Majesty, as by the Record
 “ of this honourable Court, and otherwise, it
 “ doth and may appear, that your Orator be-
 “ ing skill'd in Dealing, and in buying and
 “ selling several Sorts of Commodities, such
 “ as Corn, Hay, Straw, Horses, Cows, Sheep,
 “ Oxen, Hogs, Wool, Lambs, Butter, Cheese,
 “ Plate, Rings, Watches, Canes, Swords, and
 “ several other Commodities, whereby your O-
 “ rator had acquired to himself a very considera-
 “ ble Sum of Money, to the amount of 1000 *l.*
 “ and upwards. And *Joseph Williams* of the Pa-
 “ rish of——in the said County of *Middlesex*,
 “ Gent. being acquainted therewith, and know-
 “ ing your Orator's great Care, Diligence
 “ and Industry in managing the said Dealing,
 “ he the said *Joseph Williams*, in, or about the
 “ Year of our Lord 1720, applied himself to
 “ your Orator, in order to become your Ora-
 “ tor's Partner therein ; and after several such
 “ Applications and Meetings had between him
 “ and your Orator for that purpose, your O-
 “ rator depending on the fair Promises of the
 “ said *Joseph Williams*, that he would be a *faith-*
 “ *ful Partner* to your Orator, and would fair-
 “ ly settle with your Orator on Account of the
 “ Joint

“ *Joint-Stock*, which was to be provided and
 “ employed in the manner herein after men-
 “ tioned; your Orator at length agreed, that
 “ the said *Joseph Williams* should become his
 “ Partner in the said Dealing, in buying and
 “ selling the abovesaid Commodities and Cat-
 “ tle. And although no Article was drawn be-
 “ tween the said *Joseph Williams*, and your O-
 “ rator for the said Partnership; yet it was
 “ firmly agreed on by and between your Ora-
 “ tor, and the said *Joseph Williams*, that they
 “ both should equally provide *all sorts of Ne-*
 “ *cessaries*, at the joint and equal Expence of
 “ both such, as *Horses, Bridles, Saddles, As-*
 “ *sistants and Servants*. And it was further
 “ agreed, that they both should equally bear
 “ and pay all such Sums of Money, as should
 “ be laid out and expended on the *Roads*, at
 “ *Inns, Taverns or Ale-Houses*, or at *Markets*
 “ and *Fairs*, or elsewhere, for, and on Ac-
 “ count of carrying on the said *Joint-Dealing*:
 “ And your Orator and the said *Joseph Williams*
 “ were equally to pay all such Sum or Sums
 “ of Money, as should be necessary to be laid
 “ out in the said *Dealing*, and the said Part-
 “ nership was by the said Agreement to end
 “ and cease at *Michaelmas*, which should be
 “ in the Year 1721. And your Orator fur-
 “ ther sheweth unto your Honours, that pur-
 “ suant to the said Agreement, your Orator
 “ and the said *Joseph Williams* went on and
 “ proceeded jointly in the said Dealings with good
 “ Success on Hounslow-Heath, where they dealt
 “ with a Gentleman for a Gold-Watch, and
 “ from thence your Orator, and the said *Jo-*
 “ *seph Williams*, return’d to their respective
 “ Houses in London, and in three or four Days af-
 “ ter the said *Joseph Williams* came to your Ora-
 “ tor,

“ *tor*, and inform’d him that *Finchley* in the said
 “ County of *Middlesex*, was a good and convenient
 “ Place to deal in, and so persuaded your Ora-
 “ tor to go along with him there to deal; he the
 “ said *Joseph Williams* at the same time assuring
 “ your Orator, that the said *Commodities* were
 “ very plenty at *Finchley* aforesaid, and that
 “ if your Orator and the said *Joseph Wil-*
 “ liams would go to deal there, it would be al-
 “ most all gain to them. On which Persuasions
 “ of the said *Joseph Williams*, your Orator was
 “ prevailed on and encouraged to go along
 “ with the said *Joseph Williams* to *Finchley* aforesaid, where the said *Joseph Williams* and
 “ your Orator dealt with several Gentlemen
 “ for divers *Watches, Rings, Swords, Canes,*
 “ *Hats, Cloaks, Horses, Bridles, Saddles,* and
 “ other Things to the value of 200 *l.* and up-
 “ wards. And your Orator farther sheweth unto
 “ your Honours, that about a Month after the
 “ said *Dealing* at *Finchley* aforesaid, the said
 “ *Joseph Williams* came to your Orator, and in-
 “ form’d him that he heard there was a Gentle-
 “ man at *Blackheath*, who had a good *Horse,*
 “ *Bridle, Saddle, Watch, Sword, Cane,* and
 “ other Things to dispose of, all which he be-
 “ lieved they might have for little or no Money;
 “ and the said *Joseph Williams* telling your Ora-
 “ tor, how much he and your Orator might get
 “ to themselves, in case they could prevail on the
 “ said Gentleman, to part with the said Things,
 “ your Orator was thereupon prevail’d on again,
 “ to go along with the said *Joseph Williams* to
 “ *Blackheath* aforesaid, where they met the said
 “ Gentleman, and after some small Discourse had
 “ between your Orator, the said *Joseph Williams*
 “ and the said Gentleman, they dealt for the
 “ said *Horse, Bridle, Saddle, Watch, Sword,*
 “ *Cane,*

“ *Cane*; and other Things at a *very cheap Rate*,
 “ and thereupon return’d to *London* with the said
 “ *Horse, Bridle, Saddle, Watch, Sword, Cane*,
 “ and other Things; which, as your *Orator* avers,
 “ were well worth 50 *l.* and upwards. And your
 “ *Orator* further sheweth unto your Honours,
 “ that your *Orator* and the said *Joseph Williams*
 “ continued in their *joint Dealings* together until
 “ *Michaelmas* afore said, during which time
 “ your *Orator* and the said *Joseph Williams* dealt
 “ together in several Places, viz. at *Bagshot* in
 “ *Surry, Salisbury* in *Wiltshire, Hampstead* in
 “ *Middlesex* and elsewhere, to the amount of
 “ 2000 *l.* and upwards; during which Time your
 “ *Orator* laid out, paid and expended his share
 “ of all necessary Expences, and Money for
 “ carrying on the said *joint Dealing*; and your
 “ *Orator* not in the least doubting but that
 “ the said *Joseph Williams* would have *fairly ac-*
 “ *counted* with your *Orator* for and concerning
 “ the said *Partnership*, your *Orator* after the
 “ Expiration of the said *Partnership*, had several
 “ further *Dealings* with the said *Joseph Wil-*
 “ *liams*, for several sorts of *Goods, Wares*, and
 “ *Merchandizes*. But your *Orator* at length
 “ finding that the said *Joseph Williams* began to
 “ *shuffle with him*, became very uneasy, and de-
 “ sired the said *Joseph Williams* to come to a
 “ fair *Account* with your *Orator*, touching and
 “ concerning the said *Partnership*, which the said
 “ *Joseph Williams* refus’d to do, though often
 “ requested thereunto by your *Orator*, in a ve-
 “ ry friendly Manner: and the said *Joseph Wil-*
 “ *liams*, instead of *accounting fairly* with your
 “ *Orator* as afore said, brought an *Action* at
 “ Law against your *Orator* for 200 *l.* pretended
 “ to be due to him from your *Orator*, and by
 “ reason of your *Orator*’s suffering himself to lie
 “ in Prison, on account of the said *Partnership*,
 “ the

“ the said *Joseph Williams* declared against
 “ your *Orator* on the said Action, and brought
 “ on the same to a Trial at the Common-Pleas-
 “ Bar at *Westminster* in the last Term ; when by
 “ the Neglect of your *Orator’s* Attorney, in
 “ not subpoenaing your *Orator’s* Witnesses, in or-
 “ der to enable your *Orator* to make a proper
 “ Defence on the said Trial, the said *Joseph*
 “ *Williams* obtain’d a Verdict against your Ora-
 “ tor for 50*l.* or some such large Sum of Mo-
 “ ney. And the said *Joseph Williams* now threa-
 “ tens that he will speedily take out Execution
 “ against your *Orator*, and levy the said Sum
 “ on your *Orator’s* Stock and Goods, and that he
 “ will also bring several other Actions at Law
 “ against your *Orator*. And altho’ your *Orator*
 “ did soon after the said Verdict apply himself
 “ to the said *Joseph Williams*, to adjust and ami-
 “ cably settle all Accounts with your *Orator*, and
 “ that he hath since been often requested thereun-
 “ to by your *Orator’s* Friends and Agents in a ve-
 “ ry friendly Manner, yet he still refuses so to
 “ do ; and sometimes the said *Joseph Williams*
 “ gives Reports out in Speeches, that your Ora-
 “ tor had not any such Skill and Knowledge, in
 “ or about the said Dealings, as he pretended, and
 “ that your *Orator* never acquired to himself
 “ thereby, or otherwise, any Sum of Money what-
 “ soever ; whereas your *Orator* expressly charges
 “ (as the Truth is) that your *Orator* understood the
 “ said Dealings and Affairs, as well as any other
 “ Man did, that thereby your *Orator* acquired
 “ to himself the Sums aforesaid ; and that upon
 “ that Account, the said *Joseph Williams* ap-
 “ ply’d himself to your *Orator* to become his
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 “ *Williams* pretends that he never applied to
 “ your *Orator* to become your *Orator’s* Partner,
 “ but

“ but that your *Orator* applied to him the said
 “ *Joseph Williams* for that Purpose; whereas the
 “ said *Joseph Williams* did, as your *Orator* charges, really apply himself to your *Orator* on that
 “ account, several Times and in several Places,
 “ before your *Orator* would admit him to be your
 “ *Orator's* Partner; and at other Times the said
 “ *Joseph Williams* pretends and declares that
 “ your *Orator* was by the said Agreement, to
 “ bear two *Thirds* of all the *Expences, Costs and*
 “ *Charges in providing Necessaries*, and otherwise
 “ in and about the said Partnership, when there
 “ was not in reality any other Agreement made
 “ between your *Orator* and the said *Joseph Williams*, touching or concerning the said Partnership than what your *Orator* hath herein before set
 “ forth. And the said *Joseph Williams* well knows
 “ in his *Conscience, that the same is true*; notwithstanding he now reports, and gives out in
 “ Speeches, the contrary thereof, well knowing
 “ that *no Witness was present* at the Time of your
 “ *Orator's* making the said Agreement with
 “ him. And the said *Joseph Williams* designing
 “ to defraud your *Orator* of his *Right and Title to*
 “ *one Moiety of the Profits of the said Premises*, doth therefore now deny the said Agreement.
 “ And at other Times the said *Joseph Williams*
 “ pretends, that when your *Orator* and the said
 “ *Joseph Williams* dealt for any of the said *Com-*
 “ *modities*, that your *Orator* had the Disposal
 “ thereof, and kept all the Money arising by
 “ the Sale thereof, and that he the said *Joseph*
 “ *Williams* always paid the Money which was
 “ paid for the said *Commodities so dealt for*;
 “ whereas the said *Joseph Williams* (as your *Orator*
 “ expressly charges) well knows the contrary
 “ thereof to be true, and that when your *Orator*
 “ and the said *Joseph Williams* had dealt
 “ for any *Horses, Swords, Watches, Canes, or*
 “ other

“ other Things, your *Orator* paid as much Mo-
 “ ney for the same, as the said *Joseph Williams*
 “ did. And your *Orator* also charges that the said
 “ *Joseph Williams*, who had the *Possession and*
 “ *Disposal* thereof, receiv’d all the Money ari-
 “ sing thereby, and never accounted with your
 “ *Orator* for the same, or paid your *Orator* part
 “ or share thereof; which if he would now do, a
 “ considerable Sum of Money would remain
 “ due to your *Orator*, after paying or allowing
 “ thereout all the Money so recovered by the
 “ said Verdict on the said Action as aforesaid
 “ with the Costs thereof. Therefore the said
 “ *Joseph Williams* ought not to vex your *Orator*
 “ with any such Actions at Law; and at o-
 “ ther Times the said *Joseph Williams* denies,
 “ that he ever brought any Action at Law
 “ against your *Orator*, and that if he did, the
 “ same was brought to recover a *just* and
 “ *honest Debt*; whereas in Truth, the said
 “ Action was so brought on the Account afore-
 “ said, and on no other Account whatsoever.
 “ All which Practices and Doings of the said
 “ *Joseph Williams* and others in confederacy
 “ with him, are contrary to *Right, Equity, and*
 “ *good Conscience*, and render your *Orator* less a-
 “ ble to pay the Debts, which he oweth to his
 “ Majesty, at the Receipt of this honourable
 “ Court. In *tender Consideration* whereof, and
 “ for as much as your *Orator*’s Witnesses, who
 “ could prove the Truth of all and singular the
 “ said Premises to be as herein set forth, are *ei-*
 “ *ther dead, or gone beyond the Seas into Places*
 “ *remote and unknown to your Orator*, and for
 “ that your *Orator* is remediless in the Pre-
 “ mises by the strict Rules of the common Law,
 “ and relievable only in a Court of Equity be-
 “ fore your Honours, where *just Discoveries* are
 “ made,

“ made, *Frauds detected*, and *just Accounts* stated.
 “ To the end therefore that the said *Joseph Wil-*
 “ *liams* and the rest of the said *Confederates*,
 “ may severally upon their respective corporal
 “ Oaths, true, full, direct, and perfect An-
 “ swers make to all and singular the said Pre-
 “ mises, as fully as if the same were here again
 “ particularly repeated and interrogated, and
 “ more especially that the said *Joseph Williams*
 “ may set forth and discover whether your Ora-
 “ tor had not such *great Skill and Industry in the*
 “ *Dealings, Affairs, and Business* aforesaid, as
 “ herein before is mentioned; and whether your
 “ Orator had not acquired to himself thereby,
 “ and otherwise, the said Sums of Money set
 “ forth or any other, and what Sum or Sums
 “ of Money, and whether the said *Joseph Wil-*
 “ *liams* did not apply himself to your Orator,
 “ to become your Orator’s Partner herein, as
 “ before is set forth, or how otherwise; and
 “ whether such Partnership was not enter’d in-
 “ to, and such Agreement made as herein before
 “ are also set forth, or in, why, and what other
 “ Manner and Form carried on; and whether
 “ the said Agreement, or any other, and what
 “ Agreement was made between your Orator
 “ and the said *Joseph Williams*, touching and
 “ concerning the said Partnership, or any other,
 “ and what Partnership. And that the said *Jo-*
 “ *seph Williams* may also set forth and *discover*
 “ *what sort of Commodities* he usually dealt in
 “ with your Orator, and in *what Manner*, and at
 “ *what Prices* were the said Commodities paid
 “ for, and by *whom*, and at *what Times* and
 “ *Places*; that he may likewise set forth and
 “ discover, how much Money was really paid
 “ in all the said *Dealings, Affairs and Business*,
 “ during the said Partnership, and who paid the
 “ same,

" same, or any, and what Part thereof, towards
 " carrying on the said *Partnership* and *Joint*
 " *Dealings*, and when, and where the same was
 " paid, and what *Books, Papers, Writings*, and
 " *Memorandums*, and *Accounts*, were ever kept
 " by, or between your *Orator* and the said *Jo-*
 " *seph Williams*, during the Time they so con-
 " tinued Partners together, and where the same
 " are now, and in whose Custody or Keeping ;
 " and that he may set forth all the said *Books,*
 " *Papers, Writings, Memorandums, and Ac-*
 " *counts* in *hæc verba* ; and that the said *Joseph*
 " *Williams* may further set forth and discover
 " what *other Dealings* he had with your *Orator*
 " since the said *Partnership* determin'd, and
 " wherein did the same consist, and when were
 " the same so had. And that the said *Joseph Wil-*
 " *liams* may moreover set forth, whether he
 " did not bring such Action at Law against
 " your *Orator*, as is herein before set forth or
 " any other, and what Action ; and when, and
 " where, and why he so brought the same, and
 " what Proceedings were had thereon, and
 " whether such Verdict was obtained there-
 " in as aforesaid, or any other, and what Ver-
 " dict, and for what Sum of Money : and that
 " the said *Joseph Williams* may, by the Decree
 " of this honourable Court, *be compell'd to come*
 " *to a fair Account* with your *Orator* concerning
 " the said Premises, and be ordered to pay to
 " your *Orator* on stating the said Account, what
 " shall appear to be *justly due* to your *Orator*.
 " And that your *Orator* may be further, and
 " otherwise relieved in all, and singular, the
 " said Premises according to *Equity and good*
 " *Conscience*, and the *Nature and Circumstances*
 " *of his Case* ; and that in the mean time the said
 " *Joseph Williams* may, by the Injunction of this
 " honour-

“ honourable Court, be enjoined from proceed-
 “ ing any further at Law against your *Orator*,
 “ upon the said Verdict so obtained as aforesaid,
 “ and also from proceeding at Law against your
 “ *Orator*, on any other of the said Actions,
 “ which the said *Joseph Williams* threaten’d to
 “ commence against your *Orator*.

And your Orator shall ever pray, &c.

THE abovesaid *John Everet* in *January* 1729-30. was convicted at the *Old-Bailey*, for assaulting *Martha Ellis* on the Highway near *Pancras*, putting her in Fear, and taking from her one Guinea and two Shillings on the *Christmas-Eve* before; for which he was executed at *Tyburn*, on *Friday* the 20th of *February* following.

In *September* 1720, he was tried at the *Old-Bailey*, for robbing *Thomas Bird* of sixteen Shillings on the Highway, *July* 2. and acquitted.

At *Croyden* Assizes in *March* 1721-2. *Richard Bird* a Butcher, was convicted of robbing a Gentleman on *Wimbleton-Common*, and was hang’d at *Croyden* *March* 3^{ist}. At the Place of Execution he confess’d that himself, and *Everet*, and *Philip Anthony*, committed a Robbery on *Epping-Forest*, which *Everet* swore upon *Thomas Bird*, and one *Charlesworth*, at *Chelmsford*-Assizes.

In *July* 1725. *Everet* was an Evidence against *John Little* and *Elizabeth* his Wife, for committing three Burglaries; and *Susan Belcher*, alias *Kempster*, alias *Fowal*, for receiving the stolen Goods of *John Little*, was capitally convicted; his Wife was acquitted, and *Belcher* found Guilty, and transported for fourteen Years.

In February 1728-9. *Everet* was tried at the *Old-Bailey* for stealing a Barrel of Figs, and found Guilty to the value of 4 s. and 10 d.

Joseph Williams was convicted at *Maidstone-Affizes* in March 1727, for a Robbery on the Highway, and was executed at that Town.

Marriage is a Country that peoples all others: The *Commonalty* are more fruitful there than the *Nobility*; the reason of which perhaps is, that the *Nobility* take more delight to ramble Abroad, than stay at Home. Marriage has this peculiar Property annexed to it, than it can alter the Humours of those that are settled in it. It frequently transforms a jolly Fellow into a meer *Sot*, it often melts down a *Beau* into an errant *Sloven*; and on the other hand it so happens sometimes, that a witty virtuous Woman will improve a dull heavy country *Booby*, into a Man of Sense and Gallantry.

People marry for different Motives: Some are led by Portion, and others by Reason; the former without knowing what they are going to do, and the latter knowing no more, but that the thing must be done.

There are Men in the World so weary of Quiet and Indolence, that they marry only to divert themselves. In the first place the choice of a Woman employs them for some time: Then Visits and Interviews, Feasts and Ceremonies; but after the last Ceremony is over, they are more tired and weary than ever.

How many hundred married Couples do we see, who from the second Year of their coming together, have nothing more in common than their Names, their Quality, their ill Humour and their Misery?

I don't wonder there are so many unhappy Matches, since Folks marry rather wholly of
H their

heir own Heads, or wholly by those of others. A Man that marries by his own Head, not seeing that in his *Spouse*, which all the World sees in her, is in danger of seeing much more in her, than othersever did.

Another that has not Courage enough to trust his own Judgment, fairly applies himself to the next *Match-Maker* in the Neighbourhood, who knows to a Tittle the exact Rates of the Market, and the current Price of young Women that are fit to marry. These Marriage-*Hucksters*, or *Wife-Brokers*, have an admirable Talent to sort Conditions, Families, Trades, and Estates; in short, every Thing together, except Humours and Inclinations, about which they never trouble themselves.

By the Procurement of these experienc'd Matrons, a Marriage is struck up like a *Smithfield Bargain*: There is much higgling and wrangling for t'other ten Pound. One side endeavours to raise, and the other to beat down the Market Price. At last, after a world of Words spent to fine purpose, they come to a Conclusion.

Others that have not time to truck and bargain so, go immediately to a Scrivener's to find out a *rich Widow*, as they go to the Office of Intelligence to hearken out a Service.

It is not altogether the Match-maker's Fault, if you are deceived in your Woman. She gives you an Account of her *Portion* to a Farthing: You examine nothing but the Articles relating to the *Family* and the *Fortune*; the Woman is left in the Margin of the Inventory, and you find her too much at long run.

After all that I have said, I am not afraid to advance this Proposition; that 'tis possible for those who marry to be Happy. But you must call it Trucking or Bartering, and not Marrying, to
take

take a Woman meerly for her Fortune, and reckon her Perfections by the Number of *Pounds* she is like to bring with her. Nor is it to marry but to please one's self, to choose a Wife as we do a *Tulip*, meerly for her Beauty. It is not to marry, but to *doat* at a certain Age, to take a *young Woman* only for the sake of her Company.

What is it then to be married? Why, 'tis to choose with Circumspection, and Deliberation, by Inclination, and not by Interest, such a Woman as will chuse you after the same manner.

Besides other Things in common with all the World, the Country of *Marriage* has this particular to it self; That Strangers have a desire to settle there, and the natural Inhabitants wou'd be banish'd out of it with all their hearts.

A Man may be banish'd out of this Country by a certain Thing call'd *Separation*; but the true way of getting out of it is by Widow-hood, and is much to be preferred before Separation; for the Separated are *Savage* Animals, uncapable of the prettiest Ties of Society. The usual causes of Separation is assign'd as the Fault of the Wife, but often the Husband is the occasion that the Wife is in the Fault; and he himself is a Fool to proclaim to the World that his Wife has made a false Step.

It will be expected now, that I speak a few Words of Widowhood. 'Tis a copious and fertile Subject, that's certain; but a Man may burn his Fingers by meddling with it. For if I describe them but as little concern'd for the Death of their Husbands, I shall offend the Rules of Decency and Good Manners, and if I exaggerate their Afflictions, I shall offend the Truth.

Whatever our Railers pretend to the contrary, I say there's no Widowhood without a sprinkling

of Sorrow in it. Is it not a very sorrowful Condition to be obliged to counterfeit a perpetual Sorrow? A very doleful Part this, that a Widow must play, who would not give the World occasion to talk of her.

There are some Widows in the World so mightily befriended by Providence, that their Sighs and Tears cost them nothing. I know one of a contrary Temper to this, who did honestly all that in her lay to afflict her self; but Nature it seems had denied her the Gift of Tears. She desir'd to raise the Compassion of her Husband's Relations, for her All depended on them.

One Day her Brother-in-Law, who lamented exceedingly, reproach'd her for not having shed one Tear. Alas, reply'd the Widow to him, my poor Heart is so over-whelm'd with this unexpected Calamity, that I am, as it were become insensible by it. Great Sorrows are not felt at first; but I am sure mine will kill me in the end.

I know very well, said her Brother-in-Law to her, that Grievs too great don't make themselves at first to be perceived; and I know as well, that violent Grievs don't continue long. Thus, Madam, you will be strangely surprized, that the Grief of your Widowhood will be past before you are aware.

Another Widow was reduced to the last pitch of Despair, nor was it without a very sorrowful Occasion. She had lost upon the same Day the *best Husband*, and the prettiest little *Lap-Dog* in *London*. This double Widowhood had brought her to so low a Condition, that her Friends were afraid of her Life. They durst not speak to her of Eating and Drinking; nay, they durst not so much as offer to comfort her. 'Tis a dangerous
Mat-

Matter, you know, to combat a Woman's Grief. The best way. is to let Time and their natural Inconstancy work it off. However to accustom our Widow by little and little to support the Idea of her two Losses, a good Friend spoke to her first of her *little Dog*. At the bare Name of *Dony*, there was such a Howling and Crying, such tearing of Hair, and beating of Breasts; in short, such a Noise, and such a Pother, that one would have thought Heaven and Earth had been coming together: At last she fainted away. Well, says this prudent Friend of hers, God be prais'd I was so happy as not to mention her *Husband* to her, for then she had certainly died upon the Spot.

The next Day the Name of *Dony* set her Tears a running in so great plenty, that it was hoped the Spring would stop of it self; and the above-mentioned zealous Friend thought she might now venture to administer some Consolation to her.

Alas, says she, if the bare Name of *Dony* gives you so much Affliction, what might we not fear from you, should we talk to you of your *dear Husband*? But God forbid I should do that. *Ab poor Dony!* To be mow'd down thus in the Flower of Youth and Beauty! Well, *Madam*, you'll never have such another pretty Creature again. But 'tis happy for the *Dog* that he's dead, for you cou'd never have lov'd him longer, that's certain! Is it possible for a Woman to love any thing after she has lost her Husband?

After this manner it was that this *discreet* Gentlewoman very dexterously mingled the Idea of the *Husband* with that of *Dony*, well knowing that as two Shoulders of Mutton drive down one another, so two powerful Grievs destroy one another by making a Diversion. She observed that

that at the Name of *Dony*, her Tears redoubled, which stopt short at the Name of *Husband*: It was, without question, a sort of a *Qualm*. Every body knows that Tears are a tribute we owe, and only pay to ordinary Grievs. However it was, our poor afflicted Widow passed several Days and Nights in this sad alternative of Weeping for her *Dog*, and lamenting her *Husband*.

At last her good Friend enquired all over the Town for a *pretty Dog*; and it was her good Luck to light upon one much finer and prettier than *Dony of happy Memory*, and presented it to our Widow, who burst into a fresh Stream of Tears as she accepted it. This beautiful New-comer, so strangely insinuated himself into her good Affections, that within eight Days he had got the ascendant of her Heart, and *Dony* was no more thought of, than if he had never had a Being there. Observe now what a Consequence our Widow's Friend drew from it.

If a new *Dog* has put a stop to her *Tears*, perhaps a new *Husband* will have the same Operation upon her *Qualms*. But alas, the one was not to be so easily effected as the other. The new *Dog* so play'd his Cards, that he effaced the Memory of his Predecessors in eight Days; but it was above *three* long tedious Months, before our Widow could be brought to take a new *Husband* into her Bed.

The Gentlemen of the *Faculty* are Pensioners to *Death*, and travel Day and Night to enlarge that Monarch's Empire; for you must know, notwithstanding distemper'd Humours makes a Man sick, 'tis the *Physician* that has the Honour of killing him, and expects to be well paid for the Job, by his Relations that lie in wait for his Life to share his Fortune: So that
when

when a Man is ask'd how such a one died, he is not presently to answer according to corrupt Custom, that he died of a Fever or Pleurisy; but that he died of the *Doctor*.

See a Consult of them marching in State to a Patient, attended by a diminutive *Apothecary*, that's just arse-high, and fit to give a Clyster. How magisterially they look, and talk of the Patient's Recovery, when they themselves are but *Death* in a Disguise, and bring the Patient's *Hour* along with them. While the Patient breaths and Money comes, they are still prescribing; but when they have sent the Patient hence, like a *Rat* with a Straw in's Arse; they'll say his Body was as rotten as a Pear, and 'twas impossible to save him. *Cruel* People, that are not contented to take away a Man's Life, and, like the *Hangman*, be paid when they have done; but must persecute him in the Grave too; and blast his Honour, to excuse their Ignorance.

It were to be wish'd that every Physician might be obliged to marry; for it's highly reasonable, that those Men should beget Children to the State, who every day rob the King of so many of his Subjects.

I shall conclude this essay with a short History of *Roman Luxury*, from its Rise to the Ruin of that *Empire*.

○ *Miserabiles! quorum Palatum nisi ad preciosos Cibos non excitantur: preciosus autem non eximius Sapor, aut aliqua Faucium dulcedo, sed Raritas & Difficultas parandi facit.*
SEN. de Conso.

ROME, under the Government of Kings, though she had not risen to any great Power, yet in the reign of the last *Tarquin*, *Luxury* began to be introduced: That Prince, whose Bosom swelled

swelled with Schemes of Tyranny, projected fine Buildings and glorious Ornaments for his *capital City*, at the same time that he intended to make his *People* downright *Slaves*; which, in a great measure, he effected. If the *Rape of Lucretia* had not given the Friends of Liberty an occasion of changing the Government, in all probability the Sons of *Tarquin* would have been the last Sovereigns of *Rome*, their Vices would have proved contagious, and epidemick Corruption would necessarily have induced *Destruction*. The Spirit and good Sense of *Brutus* prevented this: He new-modelled the Commonwealth, made *Patriotism* the most shining Virtue, and extirpated *Luxury*, as a Relique of *Tyranny*. The great Men who followed him, pursued exactly his Scheme: They sought nothing in publick Offices, but the Glory of serving their *Country*: Their Dominions were ill situated for *Trade*, and therefore they were obliged to live by *Husbandry*; every *Patrician* had his *Estate in the Country*, and, as his Honours and Employments yielded him nothing, he was forced to mind that, from whence he drew his *Support*: He therefore who in the *City* was a *Statesman* and a *Soldier*, was, in the *Country* a *Farmer*: And hence it is that *Pliny* took occasion to say, *The Earth was proud of bearing great Crops, when plowed by Consuls and Dictators*; in which he could only mean, that the same good Sense which rendered them so conspicuous in the *Senate* and in the *Field*, guided them in the Management of their *Country Affairs*, and taught them alike how to make their *Estates* and the *Republick* flourish. Among People like these, *Luxury* could take no root; Men inured to *Labour* looked not for *Dainties*; Persons who were to return to the *Plow*, thought not of *fine Clothes*; a *Farm-House*

House needed no *costly Furniture*; and the Pleasures of a frugal and innocent Life prevented the extravagant Desires of *Wealth* and *Finery*. While these Times lasted, the *Roman Power* was continually increasing, and her Fame grew daily more extended than her Power; but in Process of Time, when she had subdued all her *Enemies*, *Luxury* subdued her. I am indebted for this Thought to *Pliny*, who expresses it thus; *Pariterque & Luxuria nata est, & Carthago sublata*.

It would be little agreeable to the Extent of this Paper, for me to shew minutely how *Luxury* prevailed; I chuse therefore to say, with *Sallust* and with *Pliny*, that it began to be conspicuous and dangerous after the Ruin of *Carthage*: The former Historian, speaking of the Corruption of Manners which followed that Event, expresses himself thus: *From this Period, the Purity of our Morals degenerated, not by little and little, as heretofore, but Vice rushed down as a Torrent, and our Youth were so leavened with Luxury, and Avarice, that they might justly be stiled a Generation of Men incapable either of keeping their own, or of suffering others to keep theirs in quiet*. The same excellent Writer has given us an admirable Picture of increasing *Luxury*, in a Fragment of the *second Book* of his *History*, still preserved in *Macrobius*; it runs thus:

‘ *METELLUS*, after a Year’s Absence,
 ‘ returning into the farther *Spain*, was received
 ‘ with mighty Pomp in Places through which
 ‘ he passed; Multitudes of Men and Women
 ‘ flocking to the publick Roads, and running
 ‘ to the House-Tops, to see him as he passed.
 ‘ The *Questor Caius Umbinus*, with some others,
 ‘ knowing the Temper of the Man, at a Supper
 ‘ to which they invited him, exceeded all that
 ‘ ever had been done in Feasting by the *Romans*,
 ‘ or any other People: They adorned the House

' with Tapestry, with Streamers, and with
 ' Scenes, as if it had been a Playhouse; they
 ' strewed it with Saffron, as if they had been
 ' perfuming a Temple. As if all this had not
 ' been enough, the Image of *Victory* was let
 ' down by a Rope over his Chair, with a Noise
 ' resembling Thunder; and, having placed a
 ' Wreath of Victory on his Head, Incense was
 ' burnt before him as to a Deity. He was
 ' arrayed in a purple Robe, and served with the
 ' most delicious Food; for which not only the
 ' whole Province had been ransacked, but even
 ' Parts beyond the Seas: insomuch that various
 ' sorts of Flesh and Fowls, never seen nor heard
 ' of before, were brought from *Mauritania*.
 ' These things, however, lessened his Character
 ' very much, especially among the elder Sort of
 ' People, and such who valued themselves on
 ' their Integrity, who looked on them as Things
 ' vain, ostentations, and unbecoming the *Roman*
 ' Grandeur.'—But this was only the *first Fruits*
 of *Luxury*.

In succeeding Times, excessive *Drinking* be-
 came so fashionable a Vice, that *Rules* were in-
 troduced for carrying it on regularly, and there
 was at every extraordinary drunken Bout a *Mo-
 diparator*, or a *Monarch of the Flaggon*, consti-
 tuted to see that every body drank fair: There
 were good Fellows, as *Plautus* tells us, were
 wont to boast, *Ad diurnam Stellam matutinam
 potantes*, That the evening Star left them, and
 the morning Star found them, at their Cups.
Seneca tells us that the *Ladies* did not give place
 to their *Husbands* in these sort of Debaucheries;
 they sat up as late, they drank as much, they
 used *Emeticks*, as well as they, in order to drink
 afresh; nor did they refrain from swallowing
 Snow to cool their boiling Stomachs. In latter
 Times,

Times, the Emperor *Maximinus* drank, in a Day, an *Amphora* of Wine, that is, nine Gallons of our Measure.

If they drank at such a Rate, they were no less extravagant in respect to the *Vessels* out of which they drank: *Lucius Crassus*, the Orator, gave for two wrought Cups eight hundred and seven Pounds Sterling. Sometimes they were cut out of *Onyx Stones*, sometimes of *Mother of Pearl*, and frequently of richer Materials. Our Goblets, (says *Pliny*) are encompassed with Pearls, and Emeralds adorn our Flaggons; we delight to hold the Indies in our Hands, to provoke us to Drunkenness, and Gold is now become but an Accessary. Well then might they have, as *Juvenal* tells us, proper Persons at Feasts to see that no body stole what they drank out of. *Petrone*, though he is said to have died so calmly, broke a Cup of his which cost him upwards of two thousand Pounds, that *Nero* might not have it after his Decease. To such a height of Madness did their Folly rise in this Particular, that *Seneca* tells us, a Woman of moderate Fortune gave twelve hundred Pounds for a crystal Bowl.——

As to their *Excesses of Eating*, I shall take notice, *First*, of what they eat on; and, *Secondly*, of the *Things* they eat. Not only their *Vessels* were of Gold and Silver, but even their *Tables*: *Pliny* says, that one of *Citron Wood* cost as much as a fair *Lordship*; and these, to make them the more costly, were supported with *Ivory Feet*: Of these *Tables*, costly as they were, *Seneca* had no less than four Hundred. *Pliny* says, that in the Days of *Claudius* the Emperor, one *Drusillanus*, a Slave of his *Treasurer* in the upper Spain, had a great Dish of massive Silver, weighing five hundred Pounds, for the making of which a

Forge was set up on purpose, and he had eight more, of fifty Pounds weight a-piece: But this was nothing to *Vitellius's* Dish, which was worth *Decies Sestertium*, a Million of *Sesterces*, or upwards of eight thousand Pounds Sterling. At their Meals, they were sometimes served by naked *Wenches*, and sometimes in a worse Manner: They had their Schools for teaching, not only the *Art of Cookery*, but of *Carving*. *Suetonius* tells us of *Tiberius*, that he spent two Days and a Night in eating and drinking. *Vitellius* feasted sometimes three, sometimes four times in a Day, and each of his Meals cost upwards of three thousand Pounds: How he, and other *Gluttons* like him, could devour at such a rate, *Seneca* shall inform you; for though he lived before *Vitellius's* Reign, yet he knew well the Customs of that School in which *Vitellius* was brought up, I mean, the beastly Court of *Nero*; *Vomunt*, (says the Philosopher) *ut edant; edunt, ut vomant Epulas, quas toto Orbe conquirunt, nec concoquere dignantur*. *Asinius Celer* paid six thousand *Sesterces* for a *Mullet*, which was near fifty Pounds Sterling. *Sergius Aurata* took his Name from the *Fish* he liked most, and is recorded to have been the first who settled the Precedency of *Lucrine Oysters*. *Licinius Crassus* mourned for a *Lamprey* which he had fatted, because it died before the Feast; and *Seneca* tells us a Story on this Subject, that is certainly well worth the hearing: The Emperor *Tiberius* had a *Mullet* presented him, which weighed four Pounds and a Half; upon which he said to some Friends who were with him, *I will send this Fish to Market, and I'll venture to pronounce beforehand, that either Apicius or Octavius will buy it*. It happened as the Emperor guessed, they both cheapened it, but *Octavius* bought it for about
 forty

forty Pounds; and great was his Reputation among the *Belly-Gods* of his Time, for having purchased a Fish the Emperor sold, and *Apicius* durst not buy. In the declining Times of the Empire, they eat at a rate *one can scarce credit*; these are the Words of *Capitolinus*, speaking of *Clodius Albinus* the Emperor; and then he tells us his Breakfast, which was *five hundred dried Figs*. The Emperor *Maximin* eat *forty Pounds of Flesh a Day*: and to rid our selves of such a nauseous Subject, let us just mention the Feasts of *Heliogabalus*, that Prince of Gluttons: He, at one Supper, had the Heads of *six hundred Ostiches* set on the Table, merely for their *Brains*. When he was near the *Sea*, he would never taste Fish; and when he was at a distance from it, he made the very country Fellows eat the *Milt of Pikes and Lampreys*: He swelled the Number of Courses to *Twenty two*; and in a word, if he had not been knocked on the head in time, his very *Table* would have ruined the *Empire*.

Such was the *Progress* of *LUXURY* among the *Romans*; and exactly as it grew, their *Power* and *Reputation* decreased: When their *Consuls* lived without *State*, and their *Dictators* returned to, as well as came from the *Plough*, *Rome* became first the *Mistress of Italy*, and then of the *World*: But when the *Heads of Factions* sought to bribe the *People* by *Feasts and Entertainments*, her *Ruin* drew on apace, till it was finished by those *voracious Emperors* who thought all *Grandeur* consisted in *Voluptuousness*, and who were less distinguished by their *Titles*, than abhorred for their *Vices*. Such a Picture of *Luxury* as this, ought to fright us from every thing that tends that Way: And for this End I produced it.

